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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY India

SUBJECT Health and Sanitation Data - Calicut, Madras Province

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1. The city of Calicut, Madras Province has a population of 600 thousand. Commerce and passenger traffic is connected with Bombay, India by water, with Iran by rail, and with Egypt by air. The population is most dense and concentrated near the city,
2. Per one thousand population Calicut has a birth rate of 30-35 and a death rate of 26. The infant mortality rate is 18 per one thousand. The major causes of death are TB (18 percent), malaria (12 percent), typhus (eight percent), dysentery (seven percent), and cholera (five percent). Endemic diseases are malaria, typhoid fever, dysentery, amoebic and bacillary dysentery, vitamin deficiencies and leprosy.
3. Although Calicut has a public water system, only ten percent of the population actually uses it. The public water system is simply chlorination of the river. Its sanitary quality is periodically checked by sampling. The public water system is supplemented by springs and wells. The daily consumption of water is four-six gallons per person. The public water supply is safe without further treatment. Ships are supplied from the public supply. Bottled water is not available.
4. The Health Department of Calicut has control over slaughtering, handling meats, fish, markets, restaurants, and all foods, including milk. Twenty-five percent of all milk is pasteurized, and 20 percent is bottled. Fifty percent of dairy cattle are tuberculin tested by a veterinarian.
5. Calicut has an operating sanitary sewerage system serving five percent of the population. Human excreta is disposed of by the land treatment system with ultimate disposal into the sea. Human excreta is used for fertilizing land which is used for growing vegetables. Surface run-off is only partly handled by the drainage system. There are no storm sewers. There are some open ditches, and there are places near the city where surface water collects and stands after a

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heavy rain. Garbage collection is sporadic and not frequent; it is ultimately converted into manure. All dead animals are buried, and humans are either buried or cremated.

6. There is organized pest control over mosquitoes, flies, lice, rodents, and fleas.
7. There is one hospital in Calicut with two hundred beds, including 150 charity beds. All medical services are available at the hospital, including common ~~drugs~~. District board of health units function in Calicut exercising control over TB, sanitation, and maternity and infant care. There is no control over VD, child health (other than vaccination), and follow-up social services. Smallpox, chicken pox, measles, typhus, cholera, plague, and mumps are all reported. Immunization of the general public include TAB, cholera, and plague.
8. General health conditions in Calicut are poor, except for dental and hospital care, which are fair. The climatic effect on all is fair. To remain in good health, one must take special precautions in nutrition, sanitation, and water supply. Malnutrition and poverty are prevailing hazards for infants and children.
9. Primary and high schools can be rated good in Calicut, but they are insufficient and uneconomical. English is taught at all levels of school as a second language. Public health training of all types is available in all parts of India, but it is limited. There are current research undertakings in nutritional disorders, malaria, and rural practices. India has a limited ability to synthesize drugs.

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